

# Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



**Air Power**  
Quote of the Week

“The first and absolute requirement is control of the air.”

—Gen. Carl Spaatz

Vol. 50, No. 32

[www.laughlin.af.mil](http://www.laughlin.af.mil)

Aug. 23, 2002

## Laughlin issues new ID cards

### Compiled from staff reports

In an effort to implement secure methods of transmitting information across the network, new identification cards are being issued here in the Military Personnel Flight.

Laughlin active duty, reserves, National Guard members, Department of Defense civilians and designated contractors will be given the new IDs, called Common Access Cards.

Military and DoD civilians must bring current Government-issued IDs to the MPF to be issued the new ID. DoD civilians who have never been issued a Government ID and contractors must bring along two picture IDs and a completed Department of Defense Form 1172-2 signed by a designated official. In addition, each person should determine a personal identification number prior to arriving at the MPF. PINs should be six to eight digits (no alpha or special characters)

and not be the CAC user's date of birth, telephone number, address or any other numbers easily associated with the user.

The CAC is a credit card-sized ID that contains an integrated circuit chip, a magnetic strip, bar codes and photo ID. Three digital certificates – an identity certificate, an e-mail signing certificate and an e-mail encryption certificate – are embedded in the integrated circuit chip on the CAC.

The identity certificate will be used to digitally sign documents and to authenticate (logon) to secure networks and web sites. The e-mail signature certificate will be used to digitally sign e-mails and the e-mail encryption certificate will allow users to encrypt and decrypt e-mails. The magnetic strip on the back of the CAC may be used for building access.

Detailed information about PKI can be found at <https://afpki.lackland.af.mil>.



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Master Sgt. Tim Adkins, 47th Mission Support Squadron customer support superintendent, keys in the personal information of Airman 1st Class Sarah Vigil, 47th MSS commander support staff apprentice, at the customer service section Aug. 15. Various items of personal information are required for the new Department of Defense identification cards.

## 47th Contracting Squadron helps member in need

### By Airman Timothy J. Stein

Staff writer

A Laughlin member recently learned the true value of teamwork and friendship when his apartment in Del Rio caught fire and he lost most of what he owned.

Russell Atwood, 47<sup>th</sup> Contracting Squadron chief of plans and programs flight, was preparing dinner with his wife, Ligaya, Aug. 13 when a fire started on his back patio forcing the Atwoods to evacuate.

It was during the hours it took to put out the fire that the first people started to show up and offer help and support, said Atwood.

“I couldn't believe it,” said Atwood. “Everyone has provided overwhelming support, from the Red Cross, to the members of the 47<sup>th</sup> Contracting Squadron, to everyone else at Laughlin.”

Many of Atwood's coworkers showed up that night with offers of clothes and a place to stay. While Atwood stayed at a hotel, he said the offers meant a lot to him.

“You don't know how much you need help in a situation like this until it happens to you,” said Atwood.

The next day, the Atwoods had to begin the clean up process. Members of the contracting squadron took turns during the day going to the site and helping the Atwoods search through the rubble to salvage what they could. Atwood said they saved two trucks full of things, including his photo albums.

**See 'Family,' page 4**

**Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander, will relinquish command to Col. Daniel Woodward at 9 a.m. today in Hangar 4. Colonel Rosborg will leave Laughlin to be the 4th Fighter Wing Commander at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.**

**Countdown to ORI:**

**15 weeks**



## Commanders' Corner

By Lt. Col. Elizabeth Clark

47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron Commander

### Laughlin exemplifies 'service before self'

I have been in command for a little over a year now, and what a year it has been. It has been a wild ride and one I cannot imagine having survived without the true professionals I work for, work with and who work for me.

Before this year, I'm not sure I truly thought about service before self and exactly what it means. It seems that Service Before Self is what military medicine is all about. We don't get paid more money for house calls, giving out our home numbers, or working 80-hour weeks. However, we are reimbursed in one, very important intangible way: We are part of a family – a military family.

This military family happens to be located in a remote, medically under-served portion of the United States. I believe this location makes us all closer and more of a family. I treasure watching the young student pilots get their silver wings. I have been a part of that, be it through helping them through airsickness, allergies or personal tragedies. It is absolutely the most wonderful feeling to be included in those brave young pilots' lives.

As I mentioned previously, we have had our tragedies in the last year. I have done things to help I never envisioned doing, such as acting as a liaison with the families of our members who have died. I have

been repaid with gratitude, the comfort in assuring the families that everything that can be done is being done, and the privilege of treating our fallen warriors with respect and dignity.

I guess what I'm saying is that Service Before Self is synonymous with military medical professionals. I am incredibly proud and humbled with the privilege to lead a squadron at Laughlin Air Force Base and to be a part of an incredible military family and community.

I can truly say I would not trade this assignment for any other, military or civilian. Thank you, Laughlin family, for allowing me to continue to serve.

## Top Three Talk

By Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis

47th Flying Training Wing enlisted career adviser



### Enlisted oath has gone through many changes

Reflecting on recent world events, the Senior NCO Induction and numerous promotion/reenlistment ceremonies we attend together as an Air Force family, I started thinking about where does our enlisted oath of enlistment derive from? So I conducted some research and I would like to share a brief history lesson on our enlisted oath of enlistment.

During the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress established different oaths for the enlisted men and officers of the Continental Army. The first enlisted Oath of Enlistment, voted on June 14, 1775, was part of the act creating the Continental Army, read as follows:

"I \_\_\_\_\_ have, this day, voluntarily enlisted myself, as a soldier, in the American continental army, for

one year, unless sooner discharged: And I do bind myself to conform, in all instances, to such rules and regulations, as are, or shall be, established for the government of the said Army."

The original wording was effectively replaced by Section 3, Article 1, of the Articles of War and was approved by the Continental Congress, on September 20, 1776, which specified that the oath of enlistment read:

"I \_\_\_\_\_ swear (or affirm as the case may be) to be true to the United States of America, and to serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies opposers whatsoever; and to observe and obey the orders of the Continental Congress, and the orders of the Generals and officers set over me by them."

The first oath under the United States Constitution was approved by Act of Congress September 29, 1789 (Sec. 3, Ch. 25, 1st Congress). It applied to all commissioned officers, noncommissioned officers and privates in the service of the United States. It came in two parts, the first of which read:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear or affirm (as the case may be) that I will support the constitution of the United States." The second part read: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear or affirm (as the case may be) to bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and to serve them honestly and faithfully, against all their enemies or opposers whatsoever, and to observe and obey the

See 'Oath,' page 3



### Editorial Staff

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#### Deadlines, Advertising

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Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil) [timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil)

***"Excellence –  
not our goal, but  
our  
standard."***

- 47th FTW motto



## Getting prepared for the ORI

By Lt. Col. Eddy Stanfil  
47th Flying Training Wing  
Inspections Office chief

With 107 days until the Operational Readiness Inspection, units should start to prepare by doing the following.

■ Assemble your Operation Readiness Inspection team and brainstorm ideas to consolidate and maximize preparation efforts.

■ Assign individuals to specific tasks and require regular feedback from them. Cross talk with like units or bases.

Review previous

crossfeed reports in the last year that have been provided for your area of responsibility. Incorporate, innovate and cooperate. Share your ideas and share an "Outstanding" rating together.

■ Call your counterparts at other Air Education and Training Command bases and ask them about their last assessment. Review previous Operational Readiness reports – check on common deficiency items. If you haven't had a wing-level shop inspect you recently, schedule a

staff assistance visit now and give yourself time to add, subtract or polish your programs, based on their inputs.

■ Review your area's ORI inspection from August, 2000. Make sure that deficiencies have been corrected and documented, since a repeat write-up is very serious.

■ Conduct a comprehensive self-inspection.

Review and update your self-inspection check-

lists. Look at your functional area checklists.

Review your checklists for compliance oriented programs (leave, dependent care, files, etc.)

Updated checklist are located on the internet on the AETC homepage at [www.aetc.af.mil/ig/](http://www.aetc.af.mil/ig/).

■ Review the inspector general trends list (reoccurring inspection deficiencies) to make sure that those items are covered in your self-inspection checklists. Ensure that any files, documentation, etc. that may be needed as a reference for the checklists are readily available and current.

The question is: Are we doing as thorough a look – or deeper – as the ORI team will?

***"The question is: Are we doing as thorough a look – or deeper – as the ORI team will?"***

## Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



Rick Rosborg  
**Col. Rick Rosborg**  
47th FTW Commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

## Border Eagle commentaries

The Border Eagle encourages base members to take part in their paper. Anyone wanting to write a commentary for the Viewpoint pages of the paper is welcome.

Commentaries can be written about any aspect of Air Force life you find interesting. Commentaries should be 250 to 500 words in length. Public Affairs reserves the right to edit all sub-

missions for length and clarity.

Commentaries for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338. The deadline to submit a commentary is close of business each Thursday, the week prior to publication.

For more information, guidelines or help, call 298-5393.

### 'Oath' from page 2

orders of the President of the United States of America, and the orders of the officers appointed over me." The next section of that chapter specified that "the said troops shall be governed by the rules and articles of war, which have been established by the United States in Congress assembled, or by

such rules and articles of war as may hereafter by law be established."

With a change to Title 10, US Code, Act of May 5, 1960 that replaced the wording first adopted in 1789 and an amendment effective October 5, 1962 changed our Oath of Enlistment to its current reading:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will sup-

port and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

**If you know of or suspect Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.**

## Airmanship

*Intended to help all airmen articulate the Air Force's vision of aerospace power*

**Why is a joint force air component commander important?**

AJFACC provides unity to the overall air effort. The commander is important because we Americans are generally a thrifty, efficient people and we deeply respect the intrinsic value of certain things. We don't like waste; we want the most out of what we have.



Photo by Dave Niebergall

## Final flight

Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander, accepts congratulations from fellow Laughlin pilots following his final flight Wednesday. Colonel Rosborg will leave today to be the wing commander at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

## ‘Family,’ from page 1

Juanita Rodriguez, 47<sup>th</sup> Contracting Squadron contract specialist, was one of the many people who have been helping Atwood from the beginning.

“It’s hard going through something like this,” said Rodriguez. “We are just doing what we would do for any friend or coworker.”

Atwood sees it a different way.

“I call them [the people whom have helped him and his wife during this time] my ‘angles’,” he said. “I told my wife ‘We may have lost a house, but we’ve gained a family’.”

Atwood keeps a listing of all the people who have contributed their money, time, energy and support to him and his wife. He said he doesn’t want to forget anyone when this is over.

So far the Atwoods have received \$1,465 in donations, clothing, a place to store what is left of their belongings, numerous dinners and lunches, help in the clean-up and furniture.

“I would have never expected this kind of outpouring of support,” said Atwood. “I have been at other bases and I don’t know if they would have responded like this. The people here exemplify the Air Force core values. I can’t thank everyone enough. This situation has made me realize that once we recover, I need to give more of myself.”

Donations for the Atwoods can be sent to Orie Gonzalez at the 47<sup>th</sup> Contracting Squadron, 298-5116.

## Changes of command

A 47th Flying Training Wing change-of-command ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m. today in Hangar 4. Col. Rick Rosborg will relinquish command to Col. Daniel Woodward.

For more information, call 298-5110.

Lt. Col. John Dunham Jr. will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Robert Craven during a 47th Operations Support Squadron change-of-command ceremony at 9 a.m. Tuesday in front of building 320.

For details, call 298-5359 or 298-5228.

## Fly day child care

Saturday will be a full-up flying day. The Child Development Center will not be open, but child care is available through family child care providers.

To schedule child care, call Sam Kyle at 298-4337.

## Enlisted Spouses Club

The Enlisted Spouses Club invites you to find out what the ESC is all about during the ESC Membership Night from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Club Amistad.

# Newsline

For details, call 298-1251 or 298-2180.

## Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts recruitment drives are scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday and from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the chapel fellowship hall.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. David Drotts at 298-5995 or 298-3475.

## Water outage

Due to Del Rio making the final connection from the new water treatment plant to the main water distribution pipes at Laughlin, members are encouraged not to water lawns, wash clothes, vehicles and aircraft from 10 p.m. Sunday until 4 a.m. Tuesday.

This will ensure the water storage tanks maintain adequate volume and pressure to provide for drinking, cooking, washing, bathing and fire protection for everyone on base.

For more information, call 298-5488.

## Commander’s call

The 47th Flying Training Wing Commander, will hold three commander’s calls Wednesday in Anderson Hall’s auditorium. They will be held at 7 a.m., 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For more information, call 298-5041.

## Financial management

A financial management and planning seminar is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Family Support Center conference room. Lunch will be provided.

The class is open to everyone who scheduled to be there by close of business today.

For more information, call 298-5620.

## Lost items

The 47th Security Forces Squadron investigations section has had numerous items turned in, such as keys and jewelry.

If you are missing any type of personal property, call Staff Sgt. Paul Bogumil at 298-5248 with a full description of the missing item.



## Licensing, certification information for military jobs available on-line

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem

American Force Press Service

Separating military members can now get help earning professional certification or licenses related to their military jobs for the civilian world before they leave the service. Where to go? Online.

“There are a lot of people who get out of the military only to find out that they are not prepared, even though they’ve probably gotten all the training and all the experience that they need to have those credentials,” said Sandra Winborne, certification program manager for the Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support, or DANTES.

“Many military specialties require certification or licensing to perform that job in the civilian world,” she said. “Some of the more common are information technology and telecommunications jobs, most specialties in the medical and aviation fields, and most types of engineers and mechanics.”

Winborne spoke to attendees at the recent DoD World-wide Transition Assistance Program training conference in New Orleans. She described some information separating service members can find on the DANTES Web site [<http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/cert/index.htm>], [<http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/cert/index.htm>].

The site describes certifications or licenses required to take a job in a wide variety of civilian career fields. Service members can search based on their occupational specialty or service code. The site describes how well members’ training and experience in military jobs prepare them for the tests and what added work members might need to do. The DANTES site also contains links to information from the Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics on what civilian jobs correspond to military specialties.

Winborne also cited an Army sites as an excellent information sources for departing members of all the services. The Army runs Credentialing Opportunities Online [<http://www.armyeducation.army.mil/cool>], a similar site at [www.armyeducation.army.mil/cool](http://www.armyeducation.army.mil/cool). This is the official site of the GI to Jobs program. “GI to Jobs” is an Army initiative with the sole purpose of helping military personnel understand the entire process of earning professional certification or licensing before they leave the military, Winborne said.

She explained that DANTES maintains memoranda of understanding with more than 50 organizations that provide professional licensing and certification. Many such tests can be taken at the 580 DANTES testing centers on military bases worldwide.

In many cases, financial assistance is available. DoD has signed agreements with some licensing or certification boards to cover the cost of tests given to military people. Many other tests are covered under the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Montgomery GI Bill.

For more information on using the GI Bill to cover these costs, go to [www.gibill.va.gov/education/LCweb.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/LCweb.htm).



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reynaldo Ramon

### ‘Go ahead, make my day’

Staff Sgt. Rich Kelley loads rounds of 7.62 mm bullets into a GAU-2B minigun Aug. 15. Kelley, from the 66th Rescue Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., is currently serving at a forward-deployed location supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

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## Defense Secretary submits annual report to Congress

By Linda D. Kozaryn

*American Forces Press Service*

New threats call for a new approach to defense and highlight the need to transform the nation’s armed forces “now,” Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the president and Congress in his annual report.

The United States is in a new, dangerous period, Rumsfeld said in the report, posted at [www.defenselink.mil/execsec/adr2002/index.htm](http://www.defenselink.mil/execsec/adr2002/index.htm). “The historical insularity of the United States has given way to an era of new vulnerabilities.

“Current and future enemies will seek to strike the United States and U.S. forces in novel and surprising ways,” the secretary said. “As a result, the United States faces a new imperative: It must both win the present war against terrorism and prepare now for future wars – wars notably different from those of the past century and even from the current conflict.

“America will inevitably be surprised again by new adversaries striking in unexpected ways,” he said. “Surprise and uncertainty” define the Defense Department’s challenge to defend the nation against “the unknown, the unseen and the unexpected. Now is precisely the time to make changes. The attacks on Sept. 11 lent urgency to this endeavor.”

Prior to the terrorist attack, Rumsfeld noted, defense officials had already completed the Quadrennial Defense Review and were fashioning a new approach to defense. That included a new defense strategy, replacing the two major theater war construct, and revitalizing the missile defense program free of the constraints of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Defense officials had also reorganized the department to focus on space capabilities and fashioned a new Unified Command Plan to enhance homeland defense and to speed up transformation. Defense officials had also adopted a new approach to strategic deterrence to increase security while reducing the number of strategic nuclear weapons.

Much has been achieved, the secretary said, even in the midst of fighting a war on terrorism. “Not a bad start for a department that historically has had a reputation for resisting change,” he noted. Rumsfeld said the military now has six operational goals:

- Protect the U.S. homeland and defeat weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.
- Project and sustain power in distant anti-access and area-denial environments.
- Deny enemy sanctuary by developing capabilities for persistent surveillance, tracking and rapid engagement.
- Leverage information technologies and innovative network-centric concepts to link joint forces.
- Protect information systems from attack.
- Maintain unhindered access to space and protect U.S. space capabilities from enemy attack.

“These six goals represent the operational focus for our efforts to transform the U.S. armed forces,” Rumsfeld said.

**See ‘Report,’ page 7**

If you know of or suspect Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.

‘Report,’ from page 6

Over the next decade, he continued, defense officials will transform some forces to “serve as a vanguard and signal of the changes to come.”

Ground forces will be lighter and more lethal than today; they’ll be highly mobile and capable of being inserted far from traditional ports and air bases; and they will be networked with long-range, precision-strike systems, he said.

Naval and amphibious forces will be able to operate close to an enemy’s shores and project power deep inland, he said. Air forces will be able to locate and track mobile enemy targets and strike rapidly at long ranges without warning, he added.

“The joint force,” Rumsfeld noted, “will be networked in order to conduct highly complex and distributed operations over vast distances and in space.”

Over the past decade, he said, the department invested too little in its people, equipment and infrastructure. The new defense approach defines and calls for balancing four risk areas:

- Force management risk – results from issues affecting the ability to recruit, retain, train and equip sufficient numbers of quality personnel and to sustain readiness of the force while it performs operational tasks.
- Operational risk – stems from factors shaping the ability to achieve military objectives in a near-term conflict or other contingency.
- Future challenges risk – derives from issues affecting the ability to invest in new capabilities and to develop new operational concepts needed to dissuade or defeat mid-to long-term military challenges.
- Institutional risk – results from factors affecting the ability to develop management practices, processes, standards and controls that use resources efficiently and promote the effective operation of the defense establishment.

Focusing on these four areas will help the department set priorities and allocate resources, Rumsfeld said. “The Department of Defense must wisely allocate resources and structure programs to create a portfolio of capabilities that is balanced appropriately for the variety of challenges we face,” he said.

The department’s immediate task, he said, is to stop erosion in capabilities caused by underinvestment during the past decade. “The current budget request focuses on this task while seeking additional investments to put the armed forces on a path to reducing and managing all four categories of risk,” he concluded.

Thinking about getting out? Think again!

Call the career assistance adviser at 298-5456 for guidance.

## Base welcomes new commander

### Compiled from staff reports

Team XL recently welcomed a new commander.

Maj. Michael Claffey took command of the 47th Contracting Squadron July 1.

#### Claffey

#### **Hometown:**

St. Johnsbury, Vt.

**Time in service:** Nearly 14 years

**Education:** Bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute; master of science degree in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University; and a master of science degree in military science from Air University

#### **Previous assignments:**

Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.; National Imagery and Mapping Agency at Bethesda, Md.; Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.; Sikorsky Aircraft at Stratford, Ct.; and F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.

**Greatest feat:** Having a wonderful marriage and the birth of my two daughters

#### **Leadership philosophy:**

Live by the Air Force core values – plain and simple

**Personal hero:** Col. Joshua Chamberlain, a Union officer who was instrumental in repelling the Confederate attack on Little Round Top thereby ensuring the Union Army was victorious in the Battle of Gettysburg and the



Claffey

Civil War

**Favorite quote:** I can do everything through Him who gives me strength –

Philippians 4:13, New International Version of the Bible

**Hobbies:** Spending time with my family and playing just about any sport

**Bad habit:** Watching too many sports on T.V.

## Thrift Savings Plan offers improvements

The Thrift Savings Plan's new computerized record-keeping system, set to kick off Sept. 16, will provide more control of accounts for investors and faster processing of transactions, said officials at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base.

During the transition period – now until Sept. 16 – access to accounts will be limited, officials said.

Some of the improvements include:

- Account values posted daily
  - Account balances reported in terms of number of shares and dollars value
  - Quarterly statements by mail (January, April, July and October)
  - Loans, withdrawals and transfers between funds processed daily
  - Interfund transfers posted to accounts within two business days
  - Ability to increase or decrease the payment amount on TSP loans more than once
  - Online application for loans and withdrawals.
- TSP open season dates are Oct. 15 to Dec. 31 and April 15 to June 30.

“As with any new system, there is a transition period from the old to the new,” said Janet Thomas, from the center's civilian benefits and entitlements service team. “So, for a short while, there will be a down time where contributors will not be able to make electronic transactions with the TSP. They will have the option to submit paper requests to the TSP service office.”

Military and appropriated fund civilian employees can access the TSP Web system at <http://www.tsp.gov>. Select “civilian” or “uniformed services,” click “TSP features,” and click “TSP new record keeping system.”

Additional information is available for appropriated fund civilian employees from the benefits and entitlements service team Web site and for Air Force military people at the TSP for uniformed services Web site.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Please recycle this newspaper.

**Thinking  
about getting  
out? Think  
again!**

Call the career  
assistance  
adviser at  
298-5456 for  
guidance.

**Interested in the Air  
Force? Call Del  
Rio's Air Force  
recruiter at  
774-0911.**



# Shopping at base commissary saves you money



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Maria Izquierdo, wife of Lt. Col. Michael Joseph, 47th Medical Support Squadron Commander, selects some groceries at the commissary Tuesday. She said she shops at the commissary at least twice a week.

By Senior Airman Brad Pettit  
Editor

Of all the benefits the government affords military service members, identification-card-holding family members and military retirees, the commissary ranks high among the most used and appreciated.

The Laughlin commissary, according to Velma Siler, commissary manager, has many programs designed to help base shoppers save money.

Commissary department managers select various items weekly to be part of the Manager's Specials program.

"As you walk through the commissary, you will see a Manager's Special in each department," explained Siler. "These items are sold at cost so that customers can get the

most for their money."

In addition to Manager's Specials, the commissary also has Best Value Items, which are items that are compared to local competitors' prices and are then discounted significantly.

"These items are usually 30 percent lower than our competitors," said Siler. "And the best part is, there are Best Value Items in the commissary everyday."

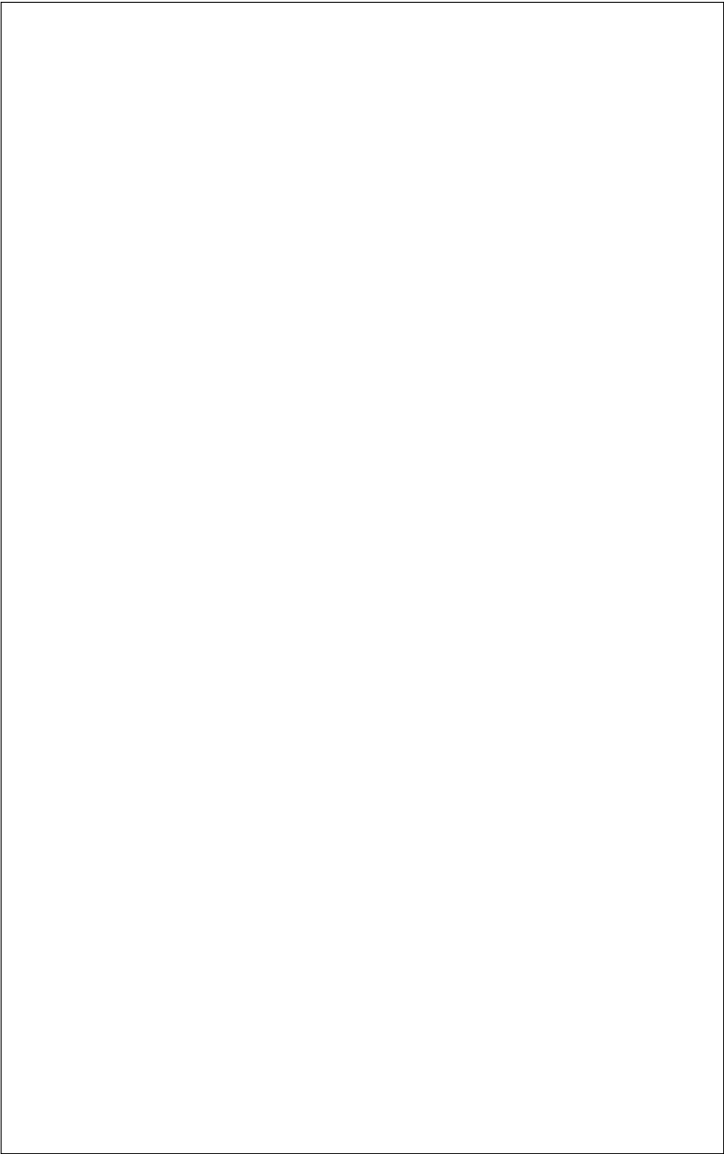
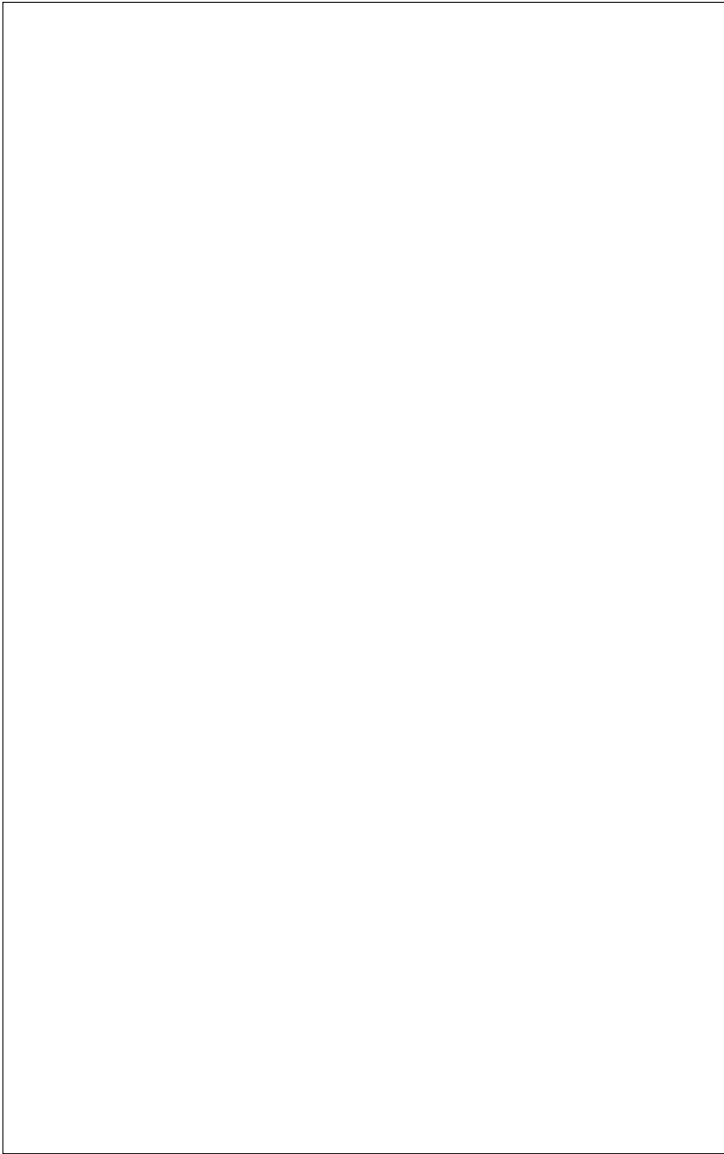
Monthly case-lot sales are also held to allow customers to buy low-cost items in bulk. The next case-lot sale will be Sept. 21-22.

Siler said base people would do well to shop at the commissary.

"Put extra money in your pocket by shopping at the commissary," said Siler. "You'll save 30 percent."

For more information about commissary savings, call 298-5815, or logon to [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

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# Motorcycle riders own best defense against accidents

**By Pam Warnken**  
*Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.,  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs*

Back in 1992, Staff Sgt. Rodney Fisk, now at the 14th Medical Group dental clinic, took one look at his Barksdale Air Force Base, La, roommate riding a slick new motorcycle and knew he was looking at a dead man.

“You can tell by a person’s personality whether they’re suited to motorcycles,” Sergeant Fisk said, a bike enthusiast himself. “He just wasn’t.”

Fisk’s 22-year-old dorm buddy brushed off the death statistics that have convinced many riders to pay extra homage to the rules of the road.

“There’s a pretty steep learning curve on a bike,” Sergeant Fisk said, “and there’s no coming back.”

The Barksdale troop felt invincible, he said. “He was a speed freak.”

And if that weren’t bad enough, the day he died, “he and a buddy, both novice bikers, had switched bikes. Both were racing at high-speed on unfamiliar bikes down a country road they’d never been on before. They rounded a curve and swung wide into the oncoming lane – and into the

path of a flatbed truck. It was all over.”

With the popularity of bikes and the youthful demographics of the military, the Air Force is seeing more motorcycle fatalities than ever before. Old Glory has been somberly folded 17 times in motorcycle deaths since the fiscal year began in October. This is much higher than the five riders lost last year. From Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper on down, the single focus goal is to “stop the trend.”

In a recent stop Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., Col. Herb Foret, Air Education and Training Command director of safety, laid out the plan to unit safety officers.

“We’re trying to develop the same safety awareness on duty with our off-duty pursuits – whether it’s scuba (diving), boating, motorcycles or fast cars,” Colonel Foret said.

The colonel said motorcycles are great fun and no one is picking on them, but the biggest cycle death rate in recent history – despite mandatory cycle safety courses – has stunned the leadership.

More than 3,000 Air Force people have registered motorcycles. The popularity of bikes is unmistakable and growing, Colonel Foret said.

According to a recent ABC News story, motorcycle sales are expected to jump 17 percent this year. Last year, bike sales were more than twice what they were in 1998.

While many buyers are older, wealthy professionals, the accident and death trend is still among young men. Of all cycle-related deaths in 2000, more than 90 percent were males and a third of those were younger than 30.

With the Air Force deaths, speed is often the primary factor, Colonel Foret said.

The bottom line is that the Air Force is not anti-motorcycles, Colonel Foret said.

In most cases, motorcycle accidents are preventable if people will just be vigilant and observe the most basic safety rules, the colonel said.

Sergeant Fisk, who’s been at Columbus for four years, became a licensed rider one year after his roommate’s death.

“Everyone at Barksdale was so down on bikes after that accident,” said Sergeant Fisk, who grew up riding off-road bikes. “I wanted to prove that a bike can bring enjoyment. I knew the potential was there for a bad accident, but it’s more the operator. If you ride sensibly, your odds of survival are very good.”

## Training the WORLD'S BEST PILOTS *Instructor Pilot Focus*

**Name:** Capt. Wes Smith  
**Squadron:** 47th Operations Support Squadron  
**Pilot Training Base:** Sheppard Air Force Base  
**Date of Graduation:** Dec. 15, 1995  
**Aircraft you flew and base you were stationed before Laughlin?** F-15C, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

**Mission of your primary aircraft?** Overwhelming air superiority on demand  
**What is the most important thing you learned at pilot training besides learning to fly?** How to play combat foosball. Always hit a spinning ball.  
**What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin?** People aren’t shooting at your airplane now, they will later. Build good habits here, it will pay off in battle.



**Capt. Smith**

# DEET, preparedness helps control mosquito problem

**By Capt. Lisa Firestone**  
*47th Medical Group flight surgeon*

For decades the quest to make humans less attractive to mosquitoes has fueled scientific research. In the United States, mosquito bites are mainly just plain annoying. Worldwide, however, mosquitoes transmit disease to more than 700 million people annually. Now, with the continued expansion of the West Nile virus in the United States, many Americans have questions regarding mosquito repellent.

N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide (DEET) is the most effective insect repellent currently on the market. When DEET repellents are combined with permethrin-treated clothing close to 100 percent protection from bites can be achieved.

In most circumstances, a high concentration of DEET is not needed. Products with 10-35 percent of DEET will provide adequate protection. Repellents used on children should not contain more than 10 percent DEET. Repellents can be applied directly to the skin, clothing, window screens, mesh in-

sect nets, tents or sleeping bags. When using DEET with sunscreen, keep in mind that the repellent may reduce the sunscreen’s effectiveness.

To help protect yourself from the nuisance of mosquitoes as well as the mosquito borne illnesses such as the West Nile virus, follow these simple steps:

- Stay indoors at dawn, dusk and early evening.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when outdoors.
- Spray clothing with DEET or permethrin.
- Apply 35 percent DEET sparingly to exposed skin.
- Install or repair window and door screens.

There are also several strategies to help relieve the itch of the bite if you get one. Several creams and lotions sold at drugstores contain corticosteroids to help reduce the redness and itching associated with a mosquito bite. In addition, antihistamines such as Benadryl can relieve symptoms. Lastly, if you have any questions regarding your health, contact your primary care provider.



# Chapel Schedule



**Catholic**

- Saturday* ● 5 p.m., Mass  
*Sunday* ● 9:30 a.m., Mass  
● 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall  
*Thursday* ● 6 p.m., Choir  
*Tuesday-Friday* ● 12:05 p.m., Mass  
● 12:05 p.m. and 7 p.m., Holy Days of Obligation  
*Reconciliation* ● Before Sunday Mass, Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. and by appointment  
*Religious Education*

- 11 a.m. and noon Sunday

**Jewish**

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

**Muslim**

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

**Nondenominational**

- Friday* ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Services

**Protestant**

- Saturday* ● 6 p.m., Singles Bible study  
*Sunday* ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school for all ages in chapel annex  
● 11 a.m., General worship  
● 6 p.m., Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238 for details.  
*Wednesday* ● 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

# The *XLer*



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

**Andres Gonzales**

47th Flying Training Wing contract inspector

**Hometown:** Del Rio  
**Family:** Pamela, Chris and Shaun  
**Time at Laughlin:** 18 years  
**Time in service:** 20 years in the Air Force and 15 years civil service  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Being a Lackland Air Force Base military training instructor  
**Hobbies:** Coins and guns

**Bad habit:** None  
**Favorite film:** Anything with John Wayne  
**Favorite musician:** Don Williams  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My sister, Cora. After my mother passed away, she became my mom and best friend. Anytime I needed anything, she was there for me.



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# OSS defeats CE, 20-13, to take base softball title



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Michael Houston, 47th Civil Enginner Squadron right fielder, hits a pop fly during the first inning of the championship game Tuesday at Babe Ruth Field.

**By Airman  
Timothy J. Stein**  
*Staff writer*

The 47th Operations Support Squadron defeated the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron 20-13 in a last inning come-from-behind victory to take the base intramural championship Tuesday in a game at the Babe Ruth Field.

Down by one run in the

top of the sixth inning, the OSS squad pounded in nine runs to secure the victory.

The game started much the same way for the OSS team. In the first inning, OSS looked like they might run away with the game early by scoring five runs. They got one more in the top of the second.

The CE team proved resilient however. They

picked up three of their own in the first and knocked in four during the bottom of the third to take a 7-6 lead. When CE picked up four more in the bottom of the forth, it looked as if they would be the ones to blow the game wide open.

OSS came up to bat in the fifth, down by five. By the time they were back out on the field, the score was tied at 11.

CE took the lead once more in the bottom of the fifth by scoring one run.

With time running out, there would be only one more inning to play. OSS needed at least one run to keep the game going. They got that and more. They smacked line drive after line drive into CE's outfield. Once all the dust finally settled, OSS had put nine runs on the scoreboard. CE needed eight runs in the bottom of the sixth to keep alive the hope of winning the championship. They scored only one.

## Mouthguard protection:

Football season is just around the corner. The base dental clinic encourages everyone involved to make an appointment to have a custom athletic mouthguard made. The clinic has set aside

two days to make these mouthguards – Sept. 11 for active duty dependents and Sept. 13 for active duty members.

Call 298-6331 to make an appointment. Appointments are limited, so call soon.

**If you know  
of or  
suspect  
Fraud,  
Waste and  
Abuse, call  
the FWA  
hotline at  
298-4170.**